GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1020
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Foreign Broadcasting/Telecasting in Border Areas
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign broadcast/telecast including from Pakistan is being carried out in the majority of border areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said channels broadcast false information and try to mislead our youth and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the appropriate steps taken by the Government to stop the foreign broadcasting/telecasting in border areas of the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set high power transmitters;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the schemes to promote Indian broadcasting/telecasting in the border areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
{COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) & (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are some programmes signals from neighboring countries including Pakistan received at border regions of India.

All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programmes and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules therein.

Rules 6(6) of the Cable TV Rules specifies that " no cable operator shall carry or include in his cable service any television broadcast or channel which has not been registered by the Central Government for being viewed within the territory of India". All authorized officers have also been advised to ensure that no TV channels, which are not permitted, are transmitted in their District by any cable operator, vide communication dated 08th July 2016. Ministry of Home Affairs has also been requested to direct their agencies to inform authorized officers whenever transmission of unpermitted channels are noticed for appropriate action.

Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programmes and Advertising Codes.

(c) to (f) As far as Doordarshan is concerned, strengthening/expansion of TV coverage in border areas of the country to counter foreign TV signal in the border areas is a priority for Doordarshan. Special schemes for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in the border areas have been formulated from time to time. At present, 243 TV transmitters of varying power are functioning in border districts of the country. All the areas not covered by terrestrial transmission (including those in border areas) along with rest of the country, have been provided with multi-channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free to air DTH service, " DD Free Dish". DTH signals can be received anywhere in the country including border areas with the help of small sized dish receiver units. For further strengthening of Doordarshan terrestrial TV coverage, projects to set up five new High Power TV transmitters in J&K have been approved.

As far as AIR is concerned, AIR has already set up High Power MW & FM transmitters at various locations across the country which are capable of broadcasting of AIR programmes across borders. In addition to terrestrial transmission, 31 channels of AIR are available on Doordarshan's DTH platform (DD Free Dish), which can be received by using set top Box throughout the country. Apart from this, 13 popular channels of All India Radio can also be received through internet by browsing AIR's website <allindiaradio.gov.in> or by downloading suitable apps on iOS/ Android/ Windows based mobile phones.

For strengthening AIR programmes along the borders, new High Power FM transmitters have been approved for installation at various locations across the country as given in Annexure. The completion time to set up these stations cannot be specified at this stage as these stations are presently at various phases of installation. However, AIR is taking all the necessary steps to set up these stations as early as possible.
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